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**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants :	Guy AZAM et al.	)	
		)	Group A.U. 3728
Appln. No. :	<u>Unassigned</u> (PCT National	)	(Anticipated)
	Phase of PCT/FR00/03661)	)	
		)	Examiner Not Yet Assigned
I.A. Filed :	December 22, 2000	)	
		)	
For :	TIGHT SHOE LACE-UP DEVICE	)	

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of filing fees and prior to the first examination of the instant application, please enter the following amendment, which deletes multiple dependent claim relationships:

**In the Claims:**

Please ~~cancel~~ claims 1-10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please ~~add~~ new claims 11-20 as follows:

11. A lace-up device adapted to equip footwear, the footwear including two portions to be brought closer together with said device, said device comprising:

a tightening zone comprising return elements positioned on said portions;